



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 7, 2008

### **S. 3085**

### **Cooperative Watershed Management Act of 2008**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 16, 2008*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 3085 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to fund watershed management projects designed to enhance water conservation, improve water quality, address conflicts over water, and improve the ecological resiliency of rivers and streams. For those purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$57 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$20 million per year for 2014 through 2020.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3085 would cost \$43 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$154 million after 2013. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 3085 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 3085 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	2	5	10	20	20	57
Estimated Outlays	2	3	6	12	20	43

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2009 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year.

S. 3085 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to fund watershed management projects designed to enhance water conservation, improve water quality, address conflicts over water, and improve the ecological resiliency of a river or stream. The projects would be implemented in three phases by consortiums of local stakeholders within a given watershed. The federal cost share of the first phase of the projects, which would not exceed three years, would be 100 percent. For watershed groups receiving funds for the second and third phases, which would be eligible for funding for four and five years, respectively, the federal share of the total project cost would be 50 percent.

Under S. 3085, authorized funding would grow gradually until it reaches \$20 million in 2012. The annual authorization would remain at that level through 2020. Based on historical spending patterns for similar programs and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3085 would cost \$43 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$154 million after 2013.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 3085 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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